

SITUATION REPORT NO. 4
INCIDENT NO. 2003-028
DATE: April 11, 2003 Time: 6:45 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Fire Season** – Typical pre green-up conditions exist to provide concern about rural fires.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** At the McLean Bottoms fire, one fire fighter was transported to the hospital on April 10 due to smoke inhalation and several fire fighters have suffered blisters on their feet due to walking on hot embers.
3. **DAMAGES:** On April 9, a campfire reportedly ignited a blaze on Game Management land one to two miles south of the Glencoe Church in the McLean Bottoms along the Missouri River in north Emmons County. The wild land fire is estimated to have consumed more than 3,000 acres. To date, the fire is reported to be 95 percent contained. One hundred percent containment is projected by 6:00 p.m. on April 11.

Eleven fires throughout North Dakota were reported to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on April 10.

A fire, located three miles west and one and one half miles south of the city of Ellendale in Dickey County, burned approximately 95 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); the blaze was contained.

In Ransom County, a small grass fire, seven miles south and six and one half miles west of the city of Lisbon, was contained. Another grass fire burned forty acres of grassland along the railroad tracks two miles west of the city of McLeod.

A 50-acre grass fire on a vacant farmstead, 12 miles south and two miles east of the city of Velva in McHenry County, destroyed an old barn. It was contained but flared destroying another old building; it was extinguished late in the afternoon.

In Richland County, two miles west of the city of Lidgerwood, a 10-acre grassland fire was contained.

A fire was extinguished at a farmstead located seven miles north of the city of Jud in LaMoure County; some machinery was damaged.

Four miles west and four miles north of the city of Cooperstown in Griggs County a fire burned approximately 500 acres of CRP land and field stubble. A Quonset received minor damage. A second fire, located six miles north and one half miles west of Binford, burned a very small area of grassland.

South of the city of Bismarck, along the Missouri River near the Desert Boat Landing, a small fire was contained.

A grass fire, one mile north and one mile west of the city of Wishek in McIntosh County, burned approximately 50 acres.

Two miles across the McKenzie County line into Dunn County a grass fire three miles east of the city of Mandaree was contained after it destroyed 50 acres.

Several fires throughout North Dakota were reported to the State EOC on April 11.

Four miles east of the city of Velva in McHenry County, a 20-acre fire was extinguished.

A fire, approximately 150 acres, continues to burn on the Sheyenne National Grasslands in Ransom County.

Seven miles north of Valley City, a fire burned approximately 150 acres of slough; the blaze has been contained.

In Ransom County, a four acre fire was contained one half mile west and two miles south of the junction of N.D. Highway 32 and the west junction of N.D. Highway 46.

In Slope County, a grass fire was reported one mile south of the junction of N.D. Highways 21 and 67.

A fire burned twenty acres of grassland and damaged three outbuildings on a vacant farmstead four miles east and two miles south of the City of Edgeley in LaMoure County. A fire was also reported in a farm yard six and one half miles south and one mile east of the city of Litchville.

In Kidder County, a grass fire was reported four miles south of the city of Steele.

Hay and a building were reported burning five miles south and two miles east of the city of Harvey in Wells County.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: (In addition to previous reports) Responders included local and rural fire departments, law enforcement agencies, emergency management departments and ambulance services from Griggs, Dickey, Ransom, McHenry, Richland, LaMoure, McIntosh, Barnes, McKenzie, Kidder, Slope, Wells and Burleigh Counties.

STATE: (No change from previous reports)

FEDERAL: (No change from previous reports)

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: (In addition to previous reports) Personnel from the Bismarck Chapter of the American Red Cross provided food and water for fire fighters at the staging area of the McLean Bottoms fire during the entire day of April 11.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In the final phases (mop-up), efforts are continuing to secure, reinforce, and patrol the control lines of the McLean Bottoms fire. A gradual demobilization of fire resources began at 11:00 a.m. on April 11. Transition of the current unified command structure to the N.D. Game and Fish has been tentatively established for 6:00 p.m. on April 11.

The temporary flight restriction implemented on April 10 over the McLean Bottoms Fire area has been lifted.

The National Weather Service forecast for April 11 indicates wind velocities will increase up to 25 miles per hour and humidity will decrease to a low of approximately 15 percent and remain at low levels from early afternoon until early evening. Temperatures are expected to range between 67 and 73 degrees. Due to a slow moving system, isolated rain showers are not expected until the evening of April 12. The fire condition is expected to remain in the extreme category through

April 13. On April 14 and 15, temperatures should moderate into the 50-degree range and there is a higher chance for general rainfall.

On April 11, a morning briefing was conducted in the State Emergency Operations Center concerning the McLean Bottoms fire. Participants focused on the status of current operations, the potential influence forecasted weather may exert on fire activity, cost projections, duration of flight restrictions and estimated timelines for demobilization of resources and transition of the unified command. Participating agencies included State Radio Communications, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the N.D. Game and Fish, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, the N.D. Forest Service, the N.D. National Guard, Burleigh County Emergency Management, Emmons County Emergency Management, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the On-Scene Unified Command.

On April 11, the N.D. National Guard provided a surveillance flight over the fire area for state and federal officials.

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven has directed the N.D. National Guard to provide personnel, resources, and equipment necessary to support local response to the Burleigh and Emmons County wildfire event.

Governor Hoeven has issued a state emergency declaration to ensure the availability of state resources in support of local fire response.

The Emmons County Board of Commissioners, on April 11, issued a disaster declaration due to damages and costs incurred while fighting the fire in McLean Bottoms.

The McIntosh County Board of Commissioners issued an open burning ban effective April 11, 2003.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No additional outside help has been requested.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director